

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PO DA

SUBJ: SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC REACTION TO EMERGENCE OF
PROTUGUESE TRIUMVIRATE

SUMMARY: DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERS, INCLUD-
ING PRIMIN JORGENSEN AND FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN, HAVE
PUBLICLY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
IN PORTUGAL AND UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
FORTHCOMING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MEETING IN STOCKHOLM. END
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SUMMARY.

1. REACTING TO THE EMERGENCE OF THE THREE-MAN TRIUMVIRATE IN PORTUGAL, FOREIGN MINISTER K. B. ANDERSEN STATED PUBLICLY THAT HE VIEWED "WITH MUCH DISQUIET" THE FUTURE IN PORTUGAL. "IT HAS NOT ESCAPED MY ATTENTION THAT PRESIDENT GOMEZ HAS DECLARED THAT PORTUGAL IS STILL A WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY", HE SAID. "BUT IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO SEE IN THIS SYSTEM OF LEADERSHIP A STEP TOWARD THE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH THE PORTUGUESE POPULATION SO CLEARLY AND STRONGLY DESIRED."

2. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY EJNAR HOVGAARD CHRISTIANSEN, WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE IN LISBON FOR EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS, COMMENTED THAT HE HAD RETURNED WITH TWO MAIN IMPRESSIONS. THE FIRST WAS THE IMPRESSIVE ORGANIZATION WHICH THE SOCIALIST PARTY HAS MANAGED TO BUILD, WITH MORE THAN 80,000 MEMBERS IN 700 SECTIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY AND WITH 70-80 FULL-TIME PARTY WORKERS. "THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PORTUGAL OPPOSE A RELATIVELY SMALL COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH IS THE MOST STALINISTIC AND MOSCOW-LOYAL IN EUROPE, WITH THE EXCEPTION, PERHAPS, OF THE DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY", SAID CHRISTIANSEN.

3. THE SECOND MAIN IMPRESSION CHRISTIANSEN BROUGHT BACK FROM HIS VISIT WAS THE ECONOMIC CHAOS THREATENING PORTUGAL, WITH 300,000 UNEMPLOYED AND AN EMPTY TREASURY. "JUST THIS COMBINATION OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHAOS CONTAINS GREAT DANGER FOR A RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A DICTATORSHIP ONLY ONE YEAR AFTER ONE SUCCEEDED IN OVERTURNING THE OLD DICTATORSHIP IN PORTUGAL", HE SAID.

4. PRIME MINISTER ANKDER JORGENSEN ALSO COMMENTED ON THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORTHCOMING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SUMMIT MEETING IN STOCKHOLM AUGUST 2. JORGENSEN STATED THAT THE MEETING IN STOCKHOLM "CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANCE, PARTICULARLY IF WE -- AND THIS I ASSUME WILL BE THE CASE -- HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR A DIRECT REPORT FROM ONE OF THE CENTRAL FIGURES, MARIO SOARES." THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED: "FURTHERMORE, I FEEL THAT IT WILL HAVE GREAT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE THAT THE LEADERS OF SO MANY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERN-
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MENTS WILL BE MEETING. IT WILL UNDERSCORE HOW IMPORTANT WE CONSIDER IT THAT THE SITUATION DEVELOPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THE MEETING IN STOCKHOLM WILL, IN ADDITION, PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE, DIRECTLY, TO THE PORTUGUESE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS THAT WE DESIRE TO SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR STRIVING FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST SYSTEM".

5. ON THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT'S RECENT DECISION REGARDING AID

TO PORTUGAL, JORGENSEN COMMENTED: I FEAR THAT THE EC'S SOMEWHAT CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE TO PORTUGAL CAN LEAD TO A FAILURE TO SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN THE COUNTRY WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME. I STILL CONSIDER THAT THE SITUATION CAN DEVELOP IN A DEMOCRATIC DIRECTION. IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THE EC TO TURN ITS BACK ON PORTUGAL SO LONG AS THERE IS HOPE."

6. COMMENT: THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT THE POSITION OF MARIO SOARES BY MEANS OF THE STOCKHOLM MEETING IS CONSISTENT WITH THE STRATEGY KJELD OLESEN, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, RECENTLY OUTLINED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER. OLESEN SAID THAT THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WERE WORKING CLOSELY WITH SOARES' SOCIALIST PARTY AND WERE PREPARED WHEN AND IF THE TIME SHOULD COME TO SUPPORT HIM IN OPPOSITION TO THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. OLESEN'S FEAR WAS THAT THE US WOULD ATTEMPT TO PRE-EMPT THE ROLE THAT ONLY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES COULD AND WERE PREPARED TO PLAY IN THAT SITUATION. HE DECLARED THAT IT WOULD BE A "DISASTER" IF THE US SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN JUDGING THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION AS IRREDEEMABLE. CROWE

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